GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1450
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Disaster Preparedness for Tourists
Singh Shri Abhishek

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for safety of the pilgrims and
tourists at the time of natural calamities at tourist places and pilgrimage centres in hilly areas;

(b) whether the measures related to earthquake, flood control and norms for the construction of buildings being strictly followed at the said places;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of tourists missing due to natural calamities during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the amount of funds allocated by the Government for the said purpose;

(f) whether the Government has given compensation to the family members/kin of the people who died due to natural calamities; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (c): As per the National Disaster Management Policy, the primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the States. The safety measures with regard to natural disasters is undertaken by the State Government concerned, as they are primarily responsible for management of natural disasters including safety of tourist/ pilgrim. Improvement of disaster preparedness system is a continuous and evolving process of

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governance. Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides for institutional mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans, which includes coordinated and prompt response to any disaster situation in the country and requires holistic measures by various wings of Government for prevention, mitigation and for minimizing the effects of disasters. The measures as taken by the Government of India and the State Governments are expected to improve the existing disaster management practices including the preparedness, mitigation & control and response mechanism to deal with natural disasters more effectively and efficiently in the country including entire Hilly States/ areas.

The State Governments have taken various measures for the safety of pilgrims and tourist in the state. These include:

â€¢ Strengthening of state and district disaster management systems
â€¢ Preparation of State and district disaster management plans
â€¢ Activation of state and district level Emergency Operation Centre on 24X7 basis
â€¢ Coordination with IMD, CWC, and ISRO for providing weather specific information
â€¢ Strengthening of communication and warning dissemination network
â€¢ Setting up of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).
â€¢ Pre-positioning of National Disaster Response Force and SDRF at vulnerable locations
â€¢ Registration is being done for safety and details of the tourist/ pilgrims.
â€¢ Development of alternate routes for road communication
â€¢ Pre-positioning of necessary equipment at vulnerable locations for timely clearance of debris and
â€¢ Stocking of essential supplies medicines and others

Since, there are institutional mechanisms at the National and State level for effective management of natural disasters including taking necessary measures related to earthquake, flood control and any likely events at the time of natural calamities. In the case of building bye laws, it is stated that, building bye laws have been put in place and the implementation of these is taken care of by the concerned regulatory authority of the State Government.
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(d) & (e): With regard to missing tourist, it is stated that information on the number of tourist missing due to natural calamities is not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs, since execution of rescue & relief operations on the ground is responsibility of the State concerned. No specific fund is allocated to the State Government in this regard. In this context it is mentioned that the concerned State Governments are required to undertake necessary relief operations in the calamity affected areas out of the funds readily available in the corpus of the SDRF. Under the guidelines for expenditure from SDRF/ NDRF, ex-gratia payment to the families of deceased persons is admissible @ Rs. 4.00 lakh per deceased.

(f) & (g): With regard to the compensation it is mentioned that the financial assistance in the wake of natural disaster, from State Disaster Response Fund/ National Disaster Response Fund is towards relief and not for compensation of loss as suffered/ claimed.

However, as per information received from State Government of Uttarakhand, they have provided ex-gratia relief and death certificate to next of kin of 3808 persons who went missing and declared dead as per the guidelines, in the event of natural calamity in the State of Uttarakhand in the year 2013.

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